GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:151
ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000
INTERNET TELEPHONEY
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL;MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended opening of Internet Telephony;

(b) If so, whether the Government are considering the proposal favourably;

(c) If so, the details thereof;

(d) Whether the Government propose to grant licence to VSNL, BSNL, MTNL and such public sector ISPs to launch Net Telephony;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(f) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHREE TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) No, Sir. However, in the highlights of Mid-Term Appraisal of 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) released by Planning Commission, opening of Internet Telephony has been identified as one of the major policy issues that still need to be addressed in the Telecom Sector. The main document is yet to be released.

(b) to (e): Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(f) As per New Telecom Policy (NTP) `99, Internet telephony shall not be permitted at this stage. However, Government will continue to monitor the technological innovations and their impact on national development and review this issue at an appropriate time.